

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/516,456

Examiner

Fred Prince

Applicant(s)

LAMBERTS VAN ASSCHE, MARC

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to December 14, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1204
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Fred G. Prince
FRED G. PRINCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

12/10/06

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While it is known in the art to provide a filtration installation for filtering water of a water pool, in particular of a swimming pool, arranged to be filled with water unto a predetermined water level, which installation comprises a filter vessel and containing a filter bed, the filter vessel being with its filter bed situated at least partially underneath said predetermined water level, with at least one inlet pipe extending between the pool and an upper portion of the filter vessel for conducting water from the pool to the filter vessel and with at least one return pipe extending between a lower portion of the filter vessel and the pool for conducting filtered water having passed through the filter bed to the pool, the installation further comprising a reversible pump enabling to generate, in a backwashing state, an upward flow of water through the filter bed, and at least one drain pipe arranged for removing the water pumped by the pump in its backwashing state through the filter bed into the upper portion of the filter vessel, characterized in that the upper portion of the filter vessel is in liquid communication through said inlet pipe with the water in the pool so that water from the pool can flow by gravity through the inlet pipe into the filter vessel, the inlet pipe is provided with a one-way valve arranged to prevent a flow of water from the upper portion of the filter vessel into the pool, the drain pipe is arranged upstream the filter bed but downstream the one-way valve, and said reversible pump is disposed downstream the drain pipe so that the water pumped upwards through the filter bed in the backwashing state of the pump is removed through the drain pipe whilst in the reversed filtering state of the pump, water is pumped out of

Art Unit: 1724

the pool to generate a flow of water from the pool through the inlet pipe, the filter bed and the return pipe back to the pool (see, for example, US 3,616,468 to Takacs), in the examiner's opinion, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest modifying the invention above such that the filter vessel separate from the pool, the filter vessel being arranged to be installed next to the pool. It is noted that Takacs teaches away from providing a filter separate from the pool as an integral filter is critical to invention taught by Takac. Accordingly, any filter vessel integral with the pool falls outside the scope of the instant invention. The instant invention provides at least the advantage disclosed on page 4, lines 23-26 of the instant specification.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Prince whose telephone number is (571) 272-1165. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00; alt. Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1724

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Fred Prince
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

fgp
12/10/06